



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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December 12, 2008

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Nebraska State Patrol announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Joshua Hirsh, 25, was sentenced for the possession of child pornography. The Honorable Lyle E. Strom sentenced Hirsh to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons for a term of 84 months. After his release from prison, Hirsh will begin a term of supervised release of 5 years.

The Nebraska State Patrol executed a search warrant on Hirsh's residence on April 11, 2008. Hirsh was in the basement. A computer tower, a hard drive and other media were found in the basement. Video files of child pornography were observed on his Limewire shared file folder. A forensic review of the computer revealed five videos of known child pornography stored in saved files.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Name of Defendant: Joshua Hirsh

AKA:

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Possession of Child Pornography – Zero to 10 years of imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, or both imprisonment and fine, not less than 5 years supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Ralston, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Ralston, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On and before April 11, 2008

Federal Arrest Date: August 5, 2008

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: April 24, 2008

Initial Appearance Date: May 20, 2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled on September 23, 2008

Sentencing Date: December 12, 2008

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Released on personal recognizance bond with supervision on May 20, 2008; arrested August 5, 2008, on a bond violation, and has remained in custody.

In Continuous Custody Since: August 5, 2008

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Lyle E. Strom

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MPN